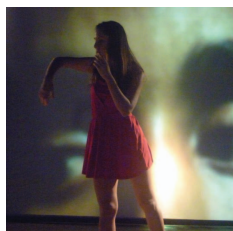
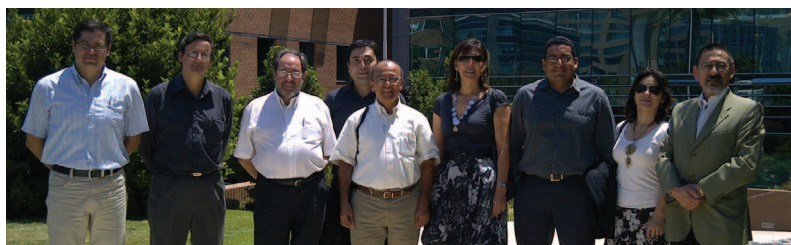


DECLARA

March 28th, 2011:
We have changed

RedCLARA founds Latin American
Network of Information Technology
Directors

COMCLARA:
Strengthening networked research



March 2011 - n°26, year 7



The DeCLARA bulletin is made in the framework of the dissemination actions of ALICE2, a Project co-funded by the European Commission through the @LIS2 Programme.



This project is funded
by the European Union

European Commission
EuropeAid Cooperation Office
Directorate B2 - Latin America
@LIS Programme
Rue Joseph II, 54 J54 4/13
B-1049 Brussels
BELGIUM



A project implemented
by RedCLARA

Press contact:
José María López Pourailly
Communications and Public
Relations Manager - RedCLARA
maria-jose.lopez@redclara.net
(+56) 2 584 86 18, anexo 504
Avenida del Parque 4680-A
Edificio Europa, oficina 505
Ciudad Empresarial
Huechuraba
Santiago
CHILE

«The European Union is made up of 25 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders».

The European Commission is the EU's executive body.

Contents

- 4 Editorial:
Florencio Utreras, RedCLARA Executive Director
- 6 March 28th, 2011:
We have changed
- 11 Emilse Serafini, Coordinator of ARANDU:
“We want to continue having the support of RedCLARA”
- 13 Alberto Pérez, RedIRIS:
“Governments cannot stay uninvolved in supporting advanced internet”
- 16 Through the future Internet:
Europe and Latin America one click closer
- 18 RedCLARA founds Latin American Network of Information Technology Directors
- 21 Honduras will host the next ALICE2/RedCLARA meeting
- 23 COMCLARA:
Strengthening networked research
- 28 LAGO:
A high altitude and energy community
- 30 MAPA D2
- 32 RNP’s 2010-2011 Work Groups presented their proposals
- 34 Agenda

Editorial



Florencio I. Utreras Díaz,
RedCLARA Executive Director.

At the beginning of 2011, the third year for the ALICE2 project, it is important that we take stock of the goals reached and those issues in which we have a lot of work to do in order to achieve our major objective of becoming the e-Infrastructure for the Latin American Research, Education and Innovation community.

From the point of view of the network infrastructure, 2010 was the year in which we began to fulfil the dream of having an updateable network featuring Gbps capacities and low maintenance cost; the basis for our project's sustainability. In fact, thanks to the synergic work with the AugerAccess project and the support of RNP and Silica Networks, we have activated the first Gbps link between Buenos Aires and Santiago, which can be updated up to a maximum of 200 Gbps in this stage, and can even be taken to greater capacities in the future. On the other hand, the work with the EVALSO project has made it possible to achieve a 2,5 Gbps capacity up to Antofagasta (Chile). If we add the link of up to 400 Gbps whose installation is being completed between Buenos Aires and Porto Alegre (Brazil), thanks to the contribution from RNP and the capacity made available between Porto Alegre and Sao Paulo (RedCLARA POP in Brazil), we end up with a highly promising outlook in the Southern Cone of our Latin America. Continuing with this terrestrial route of optical fibre, the successful negotiation done as part of ALICE2 has also made it possible to acquire a 2,5 Gbps capacity between Antofagasta and Lima, thus completing a Layer-2 high-capacity terrestrial route between Sao Paulo - Buenos Aires - Santiago and Lima. We expect, by the end of ALICE2, that this terrestrial network reaches at least up to Guayaquil, and ideally up to Bogotá and Caracas in South America, which would be completed with the terrestrial route between Panama and Mexico,

and where only the terrestrial link between Panama and Colombia. All this progress is completed with the increase of capacity between Europe and Latin America, which will reach up to 2,5 Gbps by the end of 2012. In summary, a widely successful infrastructure acquisition project.

The area on which now need to focus is the development of services for user communities, a key for the construction of a regional collaboration environment which favours the development of a Latin American Higher Education and Research Space, where researchers from our countries can take part in work groups from the most diverse disciplines and build solutions for those issues of greater regional impact.

CLARA, with the support of ALICE2 has invited the user communities, both existing and emerging, to make use of the RedCLARA facilities to work in closer collaboration and be more competitive in the formulation of project proposals which take advantage of international sources of funding. To do so, we have worked on the construction of a series

of tools, including an International Funding Sources Database, a web videoconference service, an H.323 VideoConference Federated service (SIVIC) and another series of tools which are being born in a new CLARA Service Portal which is being launched along with this bulletin.

We hope that this Service Portal, along with the project formulation courses, the training workshops on IT tools for collaboration, the Virtual Information Days on the grant funds given by the FP7 and ALFA, and other initiatives carried out jointly with institutions like CYTED, CONACYT, ARTCA and others, are highly useful for the researchers who then turn this telecommunications service infrastructure into real collaboration platform for the development of a better academic and innovation work in Latin America. Or, as our new logo says: RedCLARA + Network + Science.

March 28th, 2011:

We have changed

*“In life everything is going towards what time dissolves.
Man knows where he is born and where he won't die”.*

(Juan Antonio Corretjer - Roy Brown)

To change, mutate, transform oneself, change the skin, evolve, grow. It just happens, to us, it is nature, we see it every day when the sun breaks at dawn, or when dusk tells us that a new night is coming, when the moon shows us a shy waning or an emphatic full face; it is, unsurprisingly, part of our human nature, from when we lose our first milk tooth, or in the need to be “grown ups” who re-enact the first time when we put on our parents' shoes. This is the reason behind it all, way before the wheel was invented and until there is nothing left of us but dust.

To change, to evolve, to grow. To search for something to have a better life. To try to be better in order to leave a mark or be more endeared to others. The search for a greater good may be the driving force of it all, and certainly it was so in June 2002 when a group of visionaries from Latin America and Europe gathered in Toledo, Spain, signed the declaration that laid the foundations on which the Latin American Cooperation of Advanced Networks (CLARA) and the Latin America Interconnected With Europe (ALICE) project were founded, and which originated the creation and implementation of the advanced network that today interconnects the national research and education networks (NREN) across our region and links them with their peers in Europe and the rest of the world: RedCLARA.

To evolve and to grow in order to provide better answers for the needs of NREN connected by RedCLARA and the research communities that operate over it; to change the image in order to reflect that new degree of maturity and to express in a better way why this network brings us together in favour of scientific and academic development of our nations and certainly of our Latin America; these are the reasons that motivated the decision of giving a single name to the physical and human network that we have built together. One single name and a new image: RedCLARA.

Anything else? Of course: write this down; March 28th, 2011 is not only the day on which DeCLARA's 26th edition was released and when the new RedCLARA image was launched; it is also the day on which we left behind the shorts and dressed up in suit and tie in order to officially launch our Portal because we have also moved to another house, we kept the same address but we stopped having a website and from this date onwards when we go to www.redclara.net, we will find a portal that will help us interact in more efficiently and fluently and that will serve to host the emerging Latin American research communities.

Tania Altamirano López y María José López Pourailly

Brand Image

RedCLARA. After those eight letters we will write from now on the history of advanced networks in Latin America.

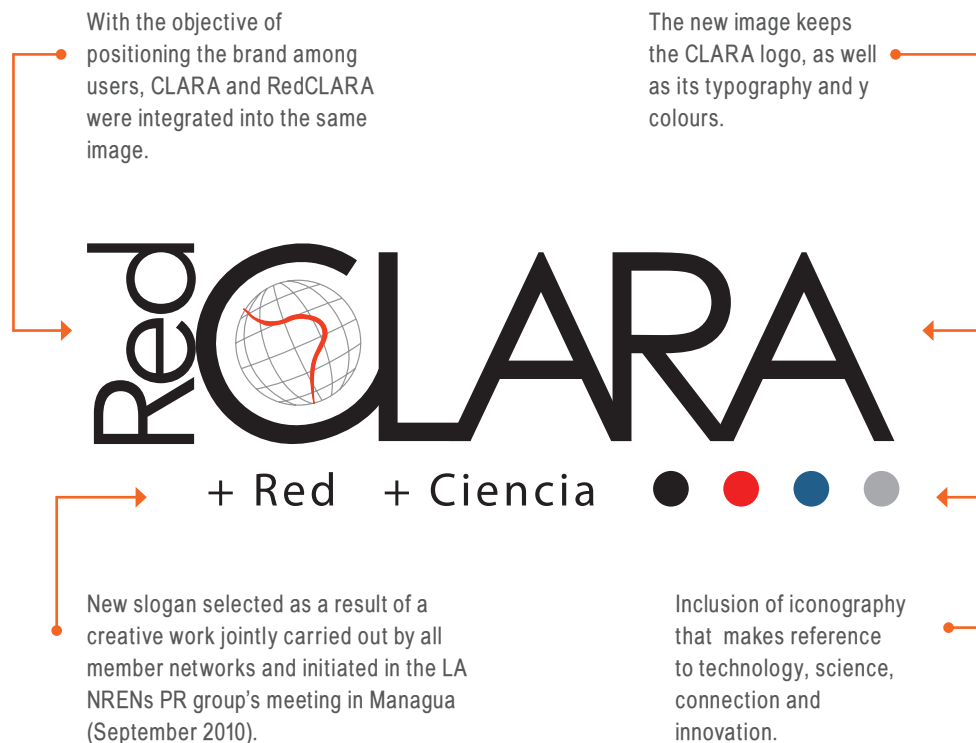
But, why change? What for? Were the Latin American Cooperation of Advanced Networks, CLARA, and the network it promotes and sustains not well-known enough? Any answer could sound subjective and this is why the Marketing and Service Management Office carried out a brand appreciation study process and it concluded that members and users used the same name to refer to both the institution and the physical network: RedCLARA. However, CLARA as a brand featured an effective positioning of its logo, its brand awareness was very high; so much so that it overshadowed the RedCLARA logo's awareness. So, what was the decision?: to keep this image and generate a new logo over it, that is, the new brand image.

The basic condition for the process was to maintain complete visual and conceptual coherence with the already old CLARA brand image, visually expressing the evolution that we wanted to convey

and which is what RedCLARA does and for who it does it. The new image must favour the positioning of the RedCLARA brand, as the one which brings together the human association, CLARA, and the physical network, RedCLARA.

The result is not a new identity, but a new face constituted by the union of the new logo and slogan, and which make up the different graphic pieces, the Portal, and the future productions that online or in print speak about this great RedCLARA which is not simply a network, but +Network, and not only exists for science, but to generate +Science.

According to the graphic designer, Marcela González, who conducted the colour analysis for the new visual image, the chromatic proposal considers the concepts of academia, science, technology, advance, progress, innovation and connection. "This is why we chose mainly colours related to technology, blue and gray, and metallic textures plus pure and bright colours related to science and the academia. These colours, randomly combined in the isotype, reinforce the idea of future and communication", she says.



+Network + Science

One of the new elements included in RedCLARA's visual image is the slogan placed on the lower part of the logo, which is the result of a meticulous and lengthy work which began in during the second ALICE2/CLARA meeting, held in Managua, Nicaragua from 27 September to 1 October 2010, when the first face-to-face meeting of the Communications and Public Relations Network of the institutions connected to RedCLARA (LA NRENs PR Network) took place.

“The meeting resulted in a list of suggested phrases with key words and determining elements of the work done by advanced networks. Later on, there was a selection and analysis process by the Executive Direction, the Innovation and Development Direction, the Marketing and Services Management Office, and CLARA's Communications and Public Relations Management Office, in which the phrases were evaluated to reduce the list. Once this was done, at the end of December, we conducted an open consultation which featured the participation of representatives from all of CLARA's member networks; the final result was the election of +Network +Science as our slogan. It was a highly inclusive work” tells María José López Pourailly, RedCLARA's Communications and Public Relations Manager.

The RedCLARA “Brand Image and Corporate Identity Handbook” is available online at our network's Portal in the section “Who we Are”, subsection “Institutional Image”. Download it in PDF and learn about which graphic pieces are associated to our new face.

In images



2004-2005| first logo used by the network






2005-2010| Second logo used by the network



2005-2010| Logo used by the Latin American Cooperation of Advanced Networks

RedCLARA colours

-  White: Means security, purity and cleanliness. In the promotion of high-tech products, white can be used to communicate simplicity.
-  Red: Represents enthusiasm, happiness, appeal, creativity, determination, success, courage and stimulus.
-  Blue: It expresses the concepts of loyalty, trust, wisdom, intelligence. It is suitable to promote high-tech or high-precision products.
-  Black: Represents power, elegance and seriousness. In combination with bright and powerful colours like orange or red it produces an aggressive and vigorous effect.

Welcome home!

The Royal Spanish Academy mentions as the first meaning for the word Portal the following: "Hallway or first room in a house, through which one access the other rooms and where the main door is found".

From March 28, 2011 RedCLARA has an online Portal and invites you to walk across that first room of its house in order to discover, after registration, all the rooms and services that have been modelled and conditioned to meet the needs of the academic, scientific, technological and innovation communities that are emerging within it, either thanks to the ALICE2 project, the IABD initiatives, the 2010 and 2011(and future) COMCLARA programmes, and all those initiatives constituted by members of the national research and education networks (NREN) connected to RedCLARA, whether they already exist or get constituted in the future, and wish to access the benefits of the Web 2.0 tools made available for their better online interaction and collaboration, and services like desktop videoconference, SIVIC multiconference, event management (Indico), documentation (DSpace), video-on-demand and others (some of them available right from March 28 and others will shortly be implemented).

In order to enjoy all these collaboration tools, you only need to visit the Portal and fill in the online registration system; a small effort that will provide you with great benefits.

It only remains for us to say: We are waiting for you, the doors are open!

Emilse Serafini, Coordinator of ARANDU:

“We want to continue having the support of RedCLARA”

The Coordinator of Paraguay’s national research and education network shares all the advances accomplished by ARANDU during 2010, the support obtained from RedCLARA and the challenges they have set for themselves for this year.

Ixchel Pérez

2011 began very well for ARANDU, since its Coordinator, Emilse Serafini, had the chance of presenting the advances of the Paraguayan network at the iLearning Forum, an event that was held in Paris and which brought together international delegations interested in e-learning, educational technology providers and representatives from universities in 40 European countries.

During the activity, which was held on February 1-2 and featured exclusive presentations for specialised audiences and open demonstrations for more than five thousand visitors, Serafini gave two presentations, one on the Mercosur Digital project and its Digital Training Network component constituted by the MERCOSUR Virtual School, and another on the ARANDU Network.

According to Serafini, the expectations for this year are as positive as what was accomplished in 2010, the year in which the support from RedCLARA was fundamental for the progress of Paraguay’s academic network.

What were the main achievements for ARANDU in 2010?

Among the main ones I can mention the experimental connection conducted on July 30, when the following universities got connected: National University of Asunción, National University



of the East, Catholic University of Our Lady of the Asunción and Autonomous University of Asunción; and the following institutions: National Computing Centre, National Council for Science and Technology and the Itaipu Technological Park Foundation (FPTI). This connection was made possible thanks to the collaboration of the Paraguayan Telecommunications Company (COPACO), which made available for ARANDU its communications infrastructure.

We also managed to disseminate through videoconference the master classes offered as part of the Latin America Informatics Conference (CLEI2010), thanks to the support from the Guatemalan Advanced Research and Education Network (RAGIE) and the Mariano Gálvez University (UMG), who enabled the use of the UMG's MCU (Multipoint Conference Unit) through RedCLARA.

Furthermore, the Mercosur Digital project allocated funds to purchase computing, networking and communication equipment with the aim of physically implementing the ARANDU network. Here it is important to mention the signature of agreements with COPACO and FPTI.

We were also invited to present the project in several events, such as Expomática, the Conference of Paraguay's Chamber of Information Technologies, CLARA's Technical Meeting, Virtual Educa 2010, the Information Day and Meeting of the Mercosur Digital project's Directing Commission.

What challenges have you set for yourselves for this year?

First, to establish the statutes that allow us to get the project within a legal framework, a visibility plan and sustainability strategies for the network. After this, we want to have a suitable physical space to install equipment and run the Network Operations Centre (NOC) in the second half of 2011.

Additionally, we expect to socialise the project among universities and research centres across the country and get these institutions to join. By the end of the year we expect to have the effective membership of 15 universities and the organisation of training events aimed at ARANDU's technical staff and the general public.

Which ARANDU benefits will become a reality for Paraguay's academic and research community?

One of the benefits will be the creation (in some cases) and strengthening of Research Communities. We expect that, through ARANDU,

these communities establish links and participate in collaborative projects with other communities around the world.

We will also be able to identify Interest Groups in various topics with the aim of getting their members to use the network's services. Another important element will be the identification of young researchers in universities, who will have the chance of taking part in the communities already mentioned.

What support have you received from RedCLARA and what support do you expect from them?

RedCLARA supported the ARANDU's participation in several activities during 2010. It also enabled the videoconference transmission of the CLEI2010 activities and, what's more important, it signed an agreement with COPACO and RNP that will enable the installation of communication equipment that will strengthen the segment between Asunción and Ciudad del Este.

It is important to mention the support received from the RedCLARA technicians, especially Gustavo García and Alex Moura, who helped us with the network's design and other highly useful recommendations.

We wish to continue having RedCLARA's support in the sense of participating in training events and other activities, as well as the support from its highly qualified technicians. We are looking forward to materialising the network, being a new RedCLARA node and being able to actively work in favour of associated networks.

Alberto Pérez, RedIRIS:

“Governments cannot stay uninvolved in supporting advanced internet”

The time has come for national networks from Central America to speak up and ask for support from their governments, according to Alberto Pérez, Deputy Director of RedIRIS, Spain’s national research and education network (NREN). The search for a sustainable model, he says, lies in a change of paradigm in which funding not only depends on the contribution received from universities.

Ixchel Pérez

The irrefutable advances in terms of advanced internet in Central America are not the result of a bet made by governments, but the result of the work of a few pioneers and of the universities that have joined this endeavour, states Alberto Pérez, deputy director of the Spanish network RedIRIS, who visited El Salvador.

The creation of National Research and Education Networks (NREN) in Latin America, supported by an advanced network infrastructure, has also been the result of the work and support of RedCLARA, put forward by the ALICE (June 2003 to March 2008) and ALICE2 (Latin America Interconnected With Europe; December 2008 to September 2012) projects, partly funded by the European Commission.

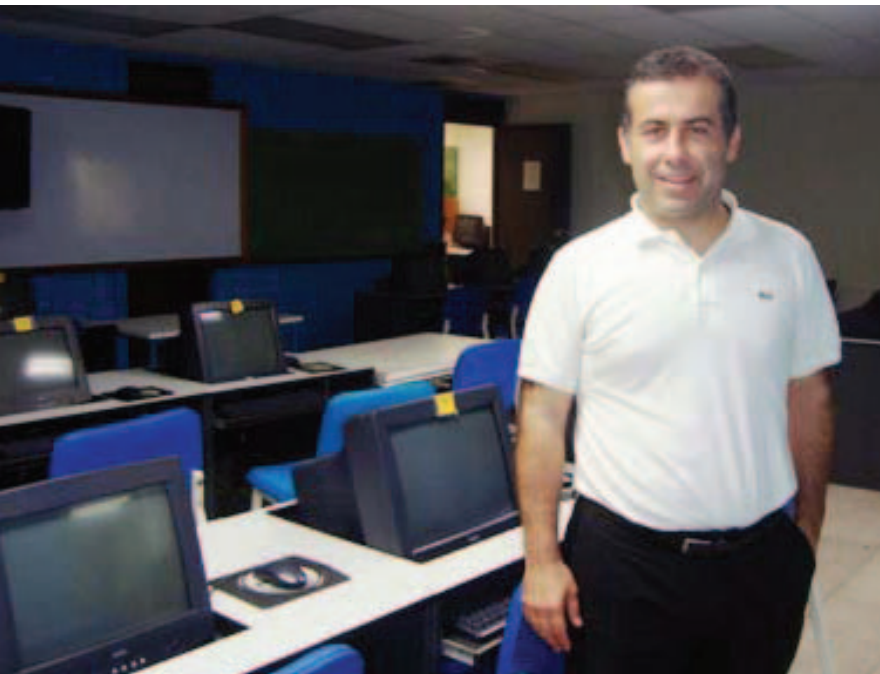
In preparation for the completion of ALICE2, in which RedIRIS takes part, Pérez points out that NREN must be prepared to make the achievements accomplished these years become sustainable in the future; according to his view, such sustainability lies in finding new sources of funding which increase the mere contribution from universities.

Central American networks have operated with a good infrastructure and limited human

resources over these years. What would be the steps to take for their strengthening?

It is fundamental that this is a bet made by the State. Almost every country across the globe is betting on models based on the information society, in the economy of knowledge; a lot of national plans for broadband as a fundamental development factor are being made and if governments believe in this, they should be aware of the fact that in order to generate more knowledge in the academic-educational and research fields, it is fundamental to work remotely through the best possible means.

There are educational contents overseas and servers which are far away and can be accessed remotely; there is highly valuable scientific equipment you do not have, but you can access the equipment owned by others. You do not have to do research only with the people close to you, but with those who are more knowledgeable about my speciality, and they may be in another place. We have to attempt an environment where working with someone on the other end of the world and working with someone by your side are the same. ICT tools are a fundamental element to reduce distances and create knowledge clusters.



I believe here networks have to try to pass on that message and say: We have kept the flame alive; we have carried it with much personal effort; but in a global and competitive world you can't have the capacity to provide a suitable service with such small means.

Is this the time to ask Governments for support?

I think this is the time to capitalise all the effort that has been done and ask Governments to take another leap. Every State will have to find its most appropriate network model, decide which institutions can or cannot get connected to that network and whether funding will be centralised, governmental or jointly provided by the government and the institutions that get connected. This depends on each country's concrete policy. But it is very difficult to move ahead if you don't have this kind of support.

Is it necessary to give greater visibility o the benefits in order to get that support?

You have to give visibility to all the work that has been jointly done with many parties: the governments themselves have supported academic networks; the European Commission (EC), which funds the current ALICE2 project and the former ALICE, which gave birth to RedCLARA and which

has in turn motivated many countries to create their networks. But it's time to take a look at sustainability and the EC is reducing the size of its contribution and it is time for countries to take a look at what is happening around. All developed countries bet on this technology to improve the quality of education and science and each country must decide what it will do so as not to be left behind.

Inevitably, they have to do their job and look for the most reasonable and efficient mechanisms to do so, rather than risking this effort may be lost.

Until now the strategy has been to attract users, show the advantages to universities?

Yes, but we have to sell the topic to economic decision-makers. It is ok to do it for the base so that people ask for it; but we have to tell people that we not only provide the physical network, we provide collaboration tools. We provide an infrastructure for people to collaborate.

Marketing must first draw up a sustainable model and then sell it.

So we have to rethink the model?

Yes, the funding and services model. That requires finding the resources to spend time reflecting, getting quotes and checking alternatives, formalising proposals in writing... You have to generate some credibility so that they (the governments) give you resources, it is difficult to say "get involved in this" on the basis of vague information; they need to see documents, statistics and comparisons which facilitate their work and get presented a clear case that is sustainable and well thought-out; and thus they can be encouraged to take a leap and get involved and fund part of the network.

But we cannot tell a government not to support the network either; that is to put things in such a way that they become lax. If you tell the government "you don't have to pay anything, the universities pay; you don't have to give any extra money to universities; when they stop paying, you don't have to help them nor do anything; I only ask you to support them", of course not! We have to completely change the paradigm. They take this for granted in such a way

that they spend much time on it; but we have to put pressure on them and make them see that “it’s your business; it’s not a pioneering thing; it won’t be available because of you; this could save money to the country and you would have a better service; you should bet on this”.

But in order to approach the government, do you need to strengthen the networks with resources and staff?

Certainly, because one single person cannot make that effort; I think it’s a lot more useful to devote resources to better practices or standard documents, with common sections, than buying a router or bandwidth which may be a benefit today and a liability in the future if there isn’t a sustainable model. You’re going to install the router but if later on someone won’t pay you and someone else is going to get disconnected, it will disappear in the end. This is why I think there must be a change of paradigm and makes things in a grand scale. Governments cannot stay uninvolved in this.

What is the importance of unifying the efforts of Central American countries?

It is a fundamental factor, because usually in the communications sector, concentration, globalisation and large-scale economies are very important. The negotiation capacity you acquire collectively in cooperation can enable you to obtain specialised services –which a small country would not be granted- or better prices. You can get services which are complementary; for instance in the area

of networks it is very important to create rings to get redundancy so that if the service is cut at some point, traffic can be carried in the other direction. In order to get better service and pricing conditions, the bigger your scale the better. Here countries are relatively small, with a low mass of researchers; it would be a lot more interesting if they had common services which can be accessed through the network instead of having many dispersed services.

How and why does RedIRIS support Central American networks?

One thing is clear and has a positive effect: if tomorrow a Spanish researcher discovers that someone that is knowledgeable on his/her subject is in another part of the world, like Central America or Asia, he/she requires those countries to also have networks and that bilateral communication is fluent and conducted through the best possible means. Science and studies are globally distributed and it is an effort in which we not only want Spanish people to communicate between them and with Europeans, but with all the countries where there are researchers. In helping these networks we not only help them as part of a development policy, but also help ourselves to have better tools to take advantage of what these other can contribute.

Through the future Internet:

Europe and Latin America one click closer

More research and development projects is the result expected by the initiative put forward by the FIRST project, which aims to define a regional strategy that favours, facilitates and promotes collaborative work between both continents through technological platforms. In February, the project took a great step by linking its members through videoconference with experts from the Latin American technological platforms. The results of the meeting include the creation of a list of priorities and the establishment of a common work plan.

Tania Altamirano L.



“Implementing International European Union-Latin America Cooperation, Future Internet, ICT Components and R&D Systems” was the title of the videoconference developed as part of the FIRST project and which linked Latin America’s network, RedCLARA, with its European peer, GÉANT.

The event, held on 9 February, featured the participation of delegates from Mexico, through CUDI, Bogotá, through RENATA, Brazil, through RNP, Argentina, making use of the InnovalRed connection, over REUNA’s network, through RedIRIS.

“This was the first time in which FIRST members and experts from Latin American platforms had the chance to get together to start thinking about

a regional EU-AL Future Internet strategy. The result was excellent and we have given ourselves plenty of homework, which means that the meeting was very productive”, stated Luz Ledesma Clavell, Coordinator of Communications and Institutional Relations – ALETI and member of the Federation of Ibero-American Associations of Information Technology Entities.

The FIRST project is an enabling action funded by the European Commission’s Seventh Framework Programme with the aim of promoting international cooperation in the areas of Future Internet, ICT components and systems between Europe and Latin America.

Its main objective consists in the implementation of technological platforms (Latin American Technology Platforms, LATPs) in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Mexico, which will be essential counterparts for the successful European technological platform, thus facilitating an efficient collaboration and cooperation with the ultimate aim of promoting joint research initiatives between the European and Latin American entities in the field of information and communication technologies.



“At a regional level, a group of experts is being constituted in order to create a regional strategy for cooperation between the European Union and Latin America in the field of Future Internet. In this sense, RedCLARA’s collaboration is essential because it provides the infrastructure to connect the experts from both Latin American and European countries”, indicated Ledesma.

According to the coordinator, during the virtual meeting RedCLARA’s support was decisive. “RedCLARA turned out to be an extraordinary tool which enables us to meet without the need to spend money in airfare and accommodation (and we save quite a few carbon footprints) and avoiding Skype or telephone conferences which, when the group is large, are very poor. It was the first time in which several members and experts who have been working together for one year could talk to each other face to face. Without this network, communication between the experts would be a lot more difficult”, she added.

Regarding the results of the meeting, for Ledesma one of the points proposed was the identification of common technological areas and of the topics in which they have special potential. “In conclusion, we will agree on a list of priorities in which Latin Americans are good at, then we will share it with Europe and will agree on the common aspects to undertake more projects together”, she explained. “This process of priority identification will be complemented with a common vision, that is, where



we want to go, and a work plan that will indicate how to implement the strategic research agenda. As a result of this process, an activity that will naturally emerge will be the networking between both continents”, she concluded.



RedCLARA founds Latin American Network of Information Technology Directors

With the aim of getting universities to exchange good practices and jointly face the challenges of the knowledge society, the first meeting of this human network was held in Santiago de Chile on 18-19 January, with the participation of representatives from six member universities from the academic networks connected to RedCLARA; they constitute the cluster that will expand the project across the region.

Ixchel Pérez

The Directors of Information and Communication Technologies from the universities across the region face similar challenges, such as the still scarce exploitation of the advanced internet within their institutions. To identify these challenges and solve them through joint ideas is one of the main objectives of the creation of a collaboration network in their field, a network which began its operations by the end of January this year.

The initiative is put forward by RedCLARA and its plans include the creation of networks of researchers and users –in Latin America- which maximise the advantages of working collaboratively over a top-level infrastructure.

The Latin American Network of Information and Communication Technologies Directors intends to reach, in the first place, all the member entities of the region's national research and education networks (NREN) connected to RedCLARA and, also, those which are still not connected and which, through this type of efforts will be able to know about the advantages of advanced internet.

“Particularly, this network aims to create a space for collaboration between users which enables the exchange of good practices and knowledge in the university sector. We think it is a good instance, since universities face big IT management challenges because the scenario and the requirements change every day”, explained Carmen Gloria Labbé, RedCLARA's director of Innovation and Development.

The idea is to address those topics which are of greater interest for this group's members, many of which are directly related with the most efficient use of advanced networks. The topics that have been proposed include knowledge management, ICT planning and strategic management, current issues management and standards analysis.

“Many of the topics that are of interest (for the IT Directors) have to do with advanced networks, for example, at the level of specialised services provided by ICT direction offices, like grids and mass computing, among others. Through this network there will be a transfer of knowledge from those

entities with greater development and we will hear some success stories”, specifies Labbé.

Thanks to a joint work, we expect it will be possible to undertake specific projects for a better exploitation of advanced internet. RedCLARA's director of Innovation and Development adds that this type of collaboration will also demand an improvement of the services offered through advanced internet, since this Network will be able to provide an input in relation to the requirements they have about RedCLARA and it will enable the design of new and better proposals.

Furthermore, its existence will make it possible to expand the dissemination of the advantages of advanced internet in a more practical way, among users from member universities. “We will work on disseminating the use of advanced networks within each country and we will try to promote their use”, highlights Jorge Portillo, IT Director at El Salvador's Technological University (UTEC), who participated in the first meeting of this initiative, representing the Salvadorian Advanced Research, Science and Education Network (RAICES).

First steps

The foundation of the Latin American Network of Information and Communication Technologies Directors took place on January 18-19, in a meeting held in Santiago de Chile. The meeting was organised by RedCLARA and featured the participation of six IT Directors from their respective six National Networks. Those present also include Sandra Jaque, Technical Manager of Chile's National University Network, REUNA; Florencio Utreras, CLARA's Executive Director and Carmen Gloria Labbé, CLARA's Director of Innovation and Development.

The participants worked on outlining an action plan and on establishing the collaboration lines between directors, with a view to better use ICT within their organisations. RedCLARA's Executive Director, Florencio Utreras, gave a presentation which led to a dialogue on the ICT Director Challenges and on the comprehensive use of networks. Each participant could give a presentation on his/her work and

mention the challenges that are relevant for his/her own country.

“We identified an initial cluster which got together in Santiago last January. Following an initial work plan drawn up in that opportunity, we now want to expand the convening power of the ICT directions of all the institutions that are part of the NREN. Additionally, we are preparing an open conference to bring together the widest possible group of ICT directors. The topic will be related to ICT management within the university. In this opportunity we will generate meeting spaces to expand the network and to develop relevant activities”, explained Labbé. That open conference is expected to be held during the first half of this year.

In order to give continuity to this effort, the Network of IT Directors has met over the last months through a videoconferencing tool provided by RedCLARA. Its foundations are already becoming strong.

“This network will complement the efforts of the networks already existing within RedCLARA, like that of NREN Directors and that of technical directors”, concluded Jorge Portillo.

Original cluster of the Network of IT Directors

Rodrigo Padilla, University of Cuenca, Ecuador
Carlos García, University of Cuyo, Argentina
Ronald Vargas, National University of Costa Rica
Juan Carlos Gallardo, University of Los Lagos, Chile
Héctor Restrepo, University of Antioquia, Colombia
Jorge Portillo, Technological University, El Salvador



Rafael Ibarra.

Honduras will host the next ALICE2/RedCLARA meeting

RedCLARA continues leading the efforts to help Honduras create its own NREN and join through advanced internet the regional endeavour in favour of scientific and academic development. Within that inclusive context, the country has been chosen as the host for the next half-yearly ALICE2 - RedCLARA meeting that will be held in June.

Ixchel Pérez

The José Cecilio del Valle University (UJCV) in Honduras will host the next ALICE2/RedCLARA meeting, which will take place from 20 to 24 of June. The decision was made following a visit to Tegucigalpa by members of the RedCLARA directing board in February; but the actions to make Honduras open its doors to the meeting began in 2010, in parallel to the follow-up over the last years of the possibility of this country to join advanced networks.

meeting jointly organised twice a year by ALICE2 and RedCLARA. The meeting is used to share the benefits of advanced internet with the authorities of the host country. The strategy of the last years has been to organise the event in countries which still are not connected to advanced networks and encourage them to get linked.

In fact, during the recent visit to Honduras, the RedCLARA delegation met with vice-chancellors and staff and shared with them the advantages of its regional backbone and its interconnection with the rest of academic networks worldwide. The delegation was constituted by RedCLARA's President, Luis Furlán, the Director of Training, Claudia Córdova and the WP8 leader, Rafael Ibarra, who met with the authorities from the Technical Secretariat of Planning and External Cooperation (SEPLAN), the vice-chancellors from the main universities and representatives from the Government.

Julio Raudales, Deputy Minister of Planning (SEPLAN), Eduardo Pavón, Director of SEPLAN and Ivette Castillo, Deputy Director of Science and Research at SEPLAN, are some of the officials with whom the delegation discussed the creation of a NREN in Honduras and therefore, the possible connection of this country to RedCLARA.

"We made a presentation about RedCLARA and its benefits for a large group of University Vice-Chancellors and the Deputy Minister of Planning. At their own instigation the "ball was left in their field" for them to get organised and consolidate Honduras' NREN", points out Luis Furlán.

Honduras organised its own academic network in 2005, the Honduran Network of Universities with Advanced Telecommunications (RHUTA), but because of different reasons the initiative faded out.

On this occasion, in his presentation Ibarra reaffirmed RedCLARA's willingness to continue supporting this country's inclusion and provide it with technical assistance to walk towards the connection to advanced internet.



Luis Furlán.

"Just as in the meetings held in Bolivia, Paraguay and Nicaragua, during the meeting in Honduras we will try to encourage the university vice-chancellors to get connected to RedCLARA", pointed out Rafael Ibarra, inclusion leader of the ALICE2 project's work package 8 (WP8).

Every year we invite NREN (national research and education networks) leaders, community members and technicians to participate in the regular

Strengthening networked research

On April 8th, for the second year in a row, RedCLARA will publish the results of the communities programme which to date features in its records 8 initiatives selected in its first open call. These initiatives work in various areas of science, such as nanotechnology, astrophysics, fine art, education and biotechnology. Interaction with their peers, technical advice and support, and funding, are some of the benefits received by each of the communities connected to RedCLARA since the beginning of 2010.

Tania Altamirano L.

Strengthening the professional links in different areas of research, consolidating their relationships and making use of the telecommunication and computing resources available in RedCLARA are the objectives of the RedCLARA Communities Programme, COMCLARA, which is open annually since 2010 as part of the Latin America Interconnected With Europe (ALICE2) project.

Through this initiative, RedCLARA offers to researchers from the institutions connected to the National Research and Education Networks (NREN) associated to RedCLARA benefits which include the hiring of one community member, funding for the participation of the community's main organiser in a relevant congress on the use of network, access to a videoconference room service, development of collaboration applications, and technical assistance from RedCLARA for one year.

After one year of work, we talked to the coordinators of each of the Communities about the RedCLARA services they have used, the benefit this has meant

for the Community's work and their expectations for this year. These were their answers:

LACXSER Community (Colombia): Latin American Network of Applied Research in Experimental Software Engineering
César Collazos,
LACXSER Coordinator



“RedCLARA's has contributed in terms of the logistics, motivation and promotion to apply for international calls. The wiki service has been used and the videoconference and repository services remain to be added. As a Community we expect to undertake a last collaborative experience, a new face-to-face group meeting and the proposal of a globalised software engineering course which would be delivered as a full-time course by several Latin American experts”.

**RELANS Community
(Costa Rica):
Latin American
Nanotechnology and
Society Network Allan
Campos, RELANS
Coordinator**



“RedCLARA has been highly useful in the dissemination of the network itself, thanks to its wiki page and its link to the website. We think the most important element has been the training to elaborate project proposals to be submitted to international bodies in a short term. The same is true of the training on project formulation and management.

“The Wiki, the bulletin for events promotion, the virtual conference rooms for work coordination and the training courses on project management have served as dissemination elements to consolidate the network itself based on the coordination between countries and between networks.

“As for courses, I think the most important would be the training we are currently receiving on project formulation and management, which we expect to put into practice to elaborate and submit initiatives to international funding agencies and take advantage of the network’s own platform to establish a virtual laboratory for nanotechnology modelling. Additionally, we expect to develop the edition of the book and build on the network’s videoconferencing resources to disseminate training activities and international conferences”.

**MAYA Community
(Perú):
Microorganisms,
Agriculture and Food
Network
Ricardo Santos, MAYA
Coordinator**



“The most commonly used RedCLARA services have been videoconferences, since the use of email or Skype over ordinary internet does

not speed up coordination activities. Furthermore, the advanced network has been a highly useful tool to transfer information, data, experiments and applications that are crucial for research and the dissemination of results in the MAYA Community through MCU room services for videoconferences; from the help, guidance and technical support in advanced networks between Peru and other countries; the workshops on “Preparation of Internationally Funded Projects” and “Introduction to the use of videoconferences in the context of collaboration for research and education” organised in Nicaragua; and the “Project Formulation and Management” course.

“This year we have planned the development of the “4th International Course” where we will request videoconferencing and/or webstreaming services from ReCLARA; the organisation of seminars and/or workshops on our lines of research with researchers from our community through videoconference; support for BA, MA and PhD dissertation work; the creation of digital repositories; and the sharing of microbiological material samples from the Laboratory for Microbial Ecology and Biotechnology in real time”.

**MCI Sur Community:
Integrated Coastal
Management of the
Southern Cone
María Gimena Urcelay
Méndez, MCI Sur
Coordinator**



“With the help from the COMCLARA project, the community has been able to have a specialist in telematics for one year and other community members. Furthermore, it enabled the purchase of three videoconference equipment, two point-to-point and one multipoint, to be installed in 2011 in the programme’s three venues (Montevideo, Maldonado and Rocha). It has also made possible the elaboration of a virtual library, the maintenance of the current MCISur website (www.mcisur.edu.uy), and the elaboration of a

follow-up system for software projects, which will be a highly helpful tool in the Community's research area. Through the videoconference service we organised the delivery of the MCISur Master's degree class with colleagues from Canada; this was a pilot activity that is expected to be repeated in the next edition of the Master's degree, and which helps by making it possible to conduct most theoretical lessons remotely instead of face-to-face in order to facilitate the participation of students and teachers from different countries in the Southern Cone region.

"The activities we have planned are: the launch of the third edition of the MCI Sur Master's degree, the development of up to three research projects in climate change and coastal communities in the Southern Cone, all of them with a regional scope, featuring the participation of researchers from the region, Canada and Europe. Furthermore, we expect to improve the community's visibility area, informing RedCLARA regularly about the community's activities. At the same time, we expect our community's leader to attend at least one congress on the coastal topic on which the networking is based. There is also the possibility of going to Mexico in September to a regional meeting of CYTED's Coastal Management Network, IBERAMAR, with the mission of putting forward a Latin American proposal for coastal policies to be submitted to the Cadiz 2012 Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Governments.

"In summary, all the community's activities developed during 2010, when the group moved from being a teaching group to a research community, and those activities planned for 2011 and beyond, imply regional and international cooperation, since the need for interdisciplinary and interinstitutional work is embedded in their own conception. To do this, cooperation, especially that which is carried out remotely within a regional context, is the suitable instrumental framework. In that sense the support from RedCLARA was fundamental as a trigger and facilitator of many of these activities in 2010, and we expect to further their consolidation and evolution from 2011 onwards".

**MAPA D2 Community:
Map and Programme
of Digital Dancing
(and performing) Arts
Ivani Santana, MAPA
D2 Leader**



"The most important benefit is that the community gains greater legitimacy since RedCLARA is a renowned institution that is highly valuable for the existence and development of communication networks in Latin America. For the MAPA D2 Community, being connected to RedCLARA shows that our efforts to use the network as a possible and appropriate space for the exchange between countries, in our case Portuguese and Spanish speaking countries, were right. Therefore, we have shown that even the arts require the support of advanced networks and can benefit from the tools, spaces and virtual communities like those existing in the COMCLARA project. We are slowly growing, but through the relation with RedCLARA we are certain that we will become a stable, strong, structured and sustainable community.

"Furthermore, it is important to highlight other benefits, such as: the information about international open calls, the intrinsic knowledge acquired through the exchange with other participating communities, and the opportunities and financial support provided by RedCLARA. In this sense RedCLARA's strategy is very appropriate and sensible working with communities through the hiring of a coordinator who deal with finding new financial support opportunities, among other things; this has been highly valuable for us.

"Our objective is to strengthen the links with RedCLARA since we work mainly with Ibero-American countries. We are getting ready for the European call which enables the development and transmission of our knowledge in the field of dancing and telematic performance. To do this, RedCLARA's support will be extremely important, since it is a bridge for interconnection with advanced networks worldwide. Our Community works with several

countries from Latin America and the Iberian Peninsula, as well as other countries like England and the USA. It is worth mentioning that we have been performing telematic shows with Europe for some time through the existing agreements with advanced networks”.

**LACLO Community:
Latin American
Learning Objects
Community
Antonio Silva, LACLO
Coordinator**



“RedCLARA’s support to the Community has contributed in the promotion of our activities and dissemination of results through videoconferences, where we have exchanged ideas, knowledge and experiences; the hiring of the LACLO Coordinator for the community, who has served as a link between both organisations; and the existence of the Communities Information System, where we get updated information about funding, open competitions and events, all of which are greatly relevant for the Community.

“RedCLARA has strengthened our collaborative work; it has helped us identify other research groups; and has made it possible to create groups in the Community’s topical areas. Furthermore, thanks to the information disseminated by RedCLARA, LACLO has information about sources of funding, and this has helped us to define possible and potential projects to be developed with other Latin American communities like, for example: Latin American Community of Digital Libraries and Repositories (COLABORA) and Education and Research (Colombia) – URDIMBRE.

“In 2011 we will organise the 6th LACLO Congress 2011 in Montevideo, Uruguay, the 2011 Seminars Series and the expansion of LACLO to cover the whole gamut of information and communication technologies to support and improve teaching and learning”.

**COLABORA
Community: Latin
American Community
of Digital Libraries
and Repositories
Margarita Lisowska/
Colabora Leader**



“The importance of RedCLARA in the community’s work is fundamental, firstly because of the convening power and recognition it has given to us, and secondly because it facilitates collaborative work thanks to the dedicated channel and its tools. Similarly, RedCLARA favours spaces for interaction with other communities which can turn out to be complementary and unite the scientific and research community.

“During the videoconference called ‘Open Access. Good Practices in Latin American Projects’, held in October 2010, we brought together through RedCLARA speakers and participants from different countries and institutions. We had speakers of different nationalities and delegates from eight countries; we linked 18 points which in turn cascaded the event to various institutions and we had a live and direct connection with 30 participants over the internet”.

**LAGO Community:
Gamma Ray Burst
Observatory
Xavier Bertou, LAGO
Coordinator**



“The project’s community is made up of members from Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela and Mexico, all of them working at different degrees of development with operational detectors recording data in Bolivia, Mexico and Argentina, and with countries installing their detectors which are in the process of becoming operational.

“Currently, the data generated between the different LAGO centres are transferred through RedCLARA, and according to Bertou they amount

to around 5 to 10 GB per month per site, depending on the quantity of detectors, an amount that turns out to be quite important considering their location and the sites' connection difficulties. We have to collect the data in one computing centre in order to be able to analyse them. These data usually consist in 4 counting rates every 5 milliseconds for each detector, which can be a lot to transfer between our countries, particularly when local networks do not feature a very high speed. Until now, the best solution was to carry the data in a hard disk to the LAGO annual workshop, but we are working to be able to communicate regularly through videoconference, share data and have a sort of virtual LAGO observatory where one can access all the data without having to worry about where they come from. In order to do all this we want to have the support of RedCLARA”.

URDIMBRE

Community: Education and Research

Clemencia Camacho Delgado, Comunidad Leader /Widman Said Valbuena B., Coordinator



“The RedCLARA services we use are the virtual office (web conference), the videoconference service and the server as a laboratory for software design and testing. It is also important to highlight the bulletin service which is updated every



15 days with information about events and open calls where we also make visible some products and processes of the URDIMBRE community. RedCLARA makes contributions to our Community's visibility and produces a synergy in relation to the research movement that has been developed in the participating universities.

“The support in training activities and in the recent specialisation course on project management for URDIMBRE became a strengthening aspect, since five members are currently participating with their university groups with the aim of improving and showcasing their capacities in international open calls. Finally, I think that RedCLARA has helped us to mature as a research unit, in our Latin American vision and our aspirations with developed countries.

“As for the expectations of that kind, the most immediate is the course on research projects design and management which enables another important Community expectation that has to do with the sustainability plan, since this enables us to develop a pool of projects with a view to international cooperation calls. Furthermore, the community's sustainability plan includes the participation in the COMCLARA 2011 call. Similarly, we have plans to participate in activities like the TERENA Network Conference, the 9th LearningCSCL2011 International Conference, the 7th International Conference of Researchers from the Latin American University Cooperation Network, and the Congress on Research in Western Education”.

LAGO:

A high altitude and energy community

High-altitude zones with privileged skies for Astrophysics and a dedicated team of researchers are the elements of LAGOa, a community that is part of the COMCLARA 2010 Programme which works on the development of a large aperture observatory for the study of gamma ray bursts which hit the Earth, and on the development of data repositories through virtual collaboration environments over RedCLARA.

Tania Altamirano L.



Observing the high-energy part of gamma ray bursts when they reach the ground and measuring solar activity through the modulation produced over the flow of galactic cosmic rays; these are the goals of LAGO (Large Aperture Gamma Ray Burst Observatory), a community constituted by 59 members from 21 institutions and 11 countries who have accomplished the beginning of activities in Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela, and the installation of operational detectors recording data in Mexico, Bolivia, Peru and Argentina.

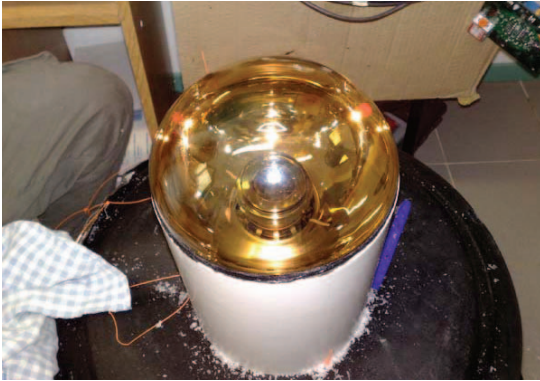
“In 2004 we conducted a study through which we discovered that the 1.600 Pierre Auger detectors used in Geiger mode, at an altitude of 1.400m were

as sensitive to gamma ray bursts as the detectors in the Chaclataya observatory (Bolivia), which being located at 5.300m served as a referent”, indicates Xavier Bertou, leader and spokesman of the Collaboration of the Bariloche Atomic Centre in Argentina and coordinator of the LAGO Community.

According to Humberto Salazar Ibargüen, PhD in Physics, member of Meritorious Autonomous University of Puebla in Mexico and responsible for the LAGO site in Sierra Negra, one of the most outstanding aspects of LAGO is that it represents a competitive in imitative developed from Latin America, which makes the most out of the geographical conditions (excellent altitude) and expertise of several groups in working at high altitudes. “A second aspect is the reduced cost of the experiment, considering –again- its competitiveness, and finally the development of human resources, both in the technological and scientific areas, is another aspect to be highlighted”, states the expert.

Team and online work

Another fundamental element of the work done by this Community consists in the development of LAGO Virtual, a series of tools which make it possible to record, catalogue, protect and, above all, share the data obtained by the detectors installed.



“The difficulty with having detectors in many countries is that you have to gather the data of all the experiments, characterise them to subsequently be able to analyse them automatically. Then we needed a data and metadata base to manage them. Doing all this through a virtual platform has enabled us precisely to overcome the differences in the format for recording atmospheric pressure, for example. When you want to correlate the detector’s counting rate with pressure, you don’t need to know the specific format used by each site. Therefore, a virtual platform displaying data in a unified way would enormously facilitate LAGO’s information management”, explains Bertou.

With the implementation of this initiative each member of the project has the chance to remotely access and control the equipment, conduct simulations of the detectors’ operation and protect, catalogue and share the data generated by each of the LAGO groups. Furthermore, it features a collaboration platform in real time (chat and videoconference) which enable the development of virtual meetings to organise seminars and work meetings with the other team members.

Currently, the data generated between the different LAGO centres are transferred through RedCLARA, and according to Bertou they amount to around 5 to 10 GB per month per site, depending on the quantity of detectors, an amount that turns out to be quite important considering their location and the sites’ connection difficulties. “We have to collect the data in one computing centre in order to be able to analyse them. These data usually consist in 4 counting rates every 5 milliseconds for each detector, which can be a lot to transfer between our countries, particularly when local networks do not feature a very high speed. Until now, the best solution was to carry the data in a hard disk to the LAGO annual workshop, but we are working to be able to communicate regularly through videoconference, share data and have a sort of virtual LAGO observatory where one can access all the data without having to worry about where they come from. In order to do all this we want to have the support of RedCLARA”, he concludes.

Gamma rays: Between the sky and the ground

Gamma radiation or gamma rays (γ) are a type of electromagnetic radiation produced by extremely energetic astrophysical phenomena; they occur in random positions of the sky and their origin still remains under scientific discussion. In any case, they seem to constitute the most energetic phenomena in the Universe.

In general, the GRBs produced in space do not reach the earth’s surface since they are absorbed by the atmosphere. The exceptions are those whose energy is above a few thousand gigaelectronvolts (or GeV) that by falling on the atmosphere produce thousands of particles (extensive atmospheric cascade) which are located in the Earth’s surface through detecting tanks that make it possible to see the Cherenkov radiation produced by them as they cross the water.

“The analysis of these GRBs is a great opportunity to study Astrophysics, Particle Physics and scientific instrumentation”, indicates Luis Otiniano, Researcher from the National Commission of Aerospace Research and Development, CONIDA, from Lima, Peru and member of the LAGO Community.

MAPA D2

Artists and researchers from Portuguese and Spanish speaking countries get together through a virtual platform in order to exchange information on dancing with technological mediation.

Simone Cardoso



To dance, interacting with resources created by technology. This is the new challenge of many artists and researchers. Nowadays information and communication technologies are a means of artistic expression, which is why it became necessary to generate a space to bring together all those who already work on dancing with technological mediation, and those who study dancing or wish to do research on it. Within this scenario the MAPA

D2 community emerges, aiming to be an articulator between the cultural and academic worlds.

Since April 2009, those who perform or study this kind of dancing can have access to a virtual platform for dissemination and to educational, technological and marketing support in the field of dancing and to performances with technological mediation in Portuguese and Spanish speaking countries. Participation requires registration and provides information about participating groups, their events, rooms, videos, bibliographical material, and allows participation in discussion forums and access to live events. All these resources are made possible thanks to RedCLARA.

The PhD Professor Ivani Santana is the director of the community, which has nine coordinators in eight countries: Uruguay, Paraguay, Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, Mexico, Portugal and Spain. "The idea of creating this community came out of the need to map Brazil, a country with a continental size, in order to find the people who work on technological dancing", indicates Ivani. Today, the community is growing: the platform brings together 51 artists, 12 researchers and 17 institutions from 10 countries. "Our idea, as MAPA, is to identify who is doing dancing with technological mediation, provide guidance on where to study and how to show the result of this work. We want to raise the flag of collaboration", she explains.

On Mariana Arteaga's opinion, director of the FEDAME Festival and former coordinator of MAPA D2 in Mexico, artistic growth through exchange will encourage discussion forums where it will be possible to learn more about that way of approaching art and about the society we live in. "The community's potential is very big. We are still working to develop groups in our countries. The generation of knowledge is very interesting and is

fundamental to establish new forms of cooperation”, added the MAPA D2 coordinator in Uruguay, Diego Carrera.

But the expectations are even higher for the MAPA D2 community. The coordinator in Argentina, Alejandra Ceriani, states that MAPA D2 will expand the network, the new forms of production and ways of thinking about the body's movement and image, but mainly the platform will be able to contribute to getting the community of dancing mediated by technology to turn their eyes in each country towards artistic policymaking, thus making dancing become more aware of its role in the culture of hybridisation.

Dancing and interacting

Art gains a lot of resources through advanced networks. Artists in different countries can dance and interact with network users in a virtual stage in real time. A recent example of this application was the e-Pormundos Afeto telematic dancing show, which brought together in a virtual 3D environment dancers who were in Buenos Aires (Argentina) and Barcelona (Spain) with a Lego MXT robot that was in Salvador (Brazil) and with avatars created by those who participated in the show through the network. The performances, which were transmitted on 4 and 5 September over the MAPA D2 community's website thanks to the efforts of the Brazilian academic network, RNP, and the support from InnovalRed, its Argentinean peer, RedCLARA and the I2Cat Foundation (Catalonia, Spain), represent one of the results of the Work Group on Digital Media and theArts, funded by RNP and constituted by the Poetic-Technological Research Group (Federal University of Bahia), the Digital Video Laboratory (Federal University of Paraíba) and NatalNet (Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte). The work included the participation of the Spanish band Kónic Thtr, directed by Rosa Sánchez and Alain Baumann.

The MAPA D2 community strengthens the relations and associations between the groups that study and perform dancing with technological mediation, thus increasingly promoting examples like this. With this mission, its coordinators organised their first face-



to-face meeting during the 3rd International Seminar on Dancing, Drama and Performance, held from 3 to 7 November last year in Salvador (Brazil). With the support of RedCLARA, the Cultural Foundation of the Bahia State, the Brazilian Council for Scientific and Technological Development, eight coordinators were able to participate in the meeting “which strengthened the community's links, helped to solve some demands and to plan important actions, like the definition of the council of responsible coordinators and the community's shared management”, pointed out Santana.

More information in:

<http://www.mapad2.ufba.br/>
<http://www.poeticatecnologica.ufba.br/site/>
<http://www.koniclab.info>
<http://www.fedame.org.mx>

RNP's 2010-2011 Work Groups presented their proposals

The introductory workshop of the Work Groups (WG) in the 1st 2010-2011 Stage from Brazil's National Research and Education Network (RNP) was held on 10 December 2010. The representatives from the six groups introduced their proposals for the computer networks' new protocols, services and applications, and for the study topics defined by RNP.

Simone Fonseca



Implemented in 2010, the groups are constituted by researchers from state higher education institutions in different areas of the country and by one or more researchers from RNP. The Brazilian academic network's member institutions (universities or companies) can also take part in the activities, after accepting the criteria established by the coordinator in each group.

In the first stage, researchers work to create and demonstrate the prototype of a new network service. In the second stage, if approved by RNP, the prototype must be developed with the intention of implementing a pilot service over the academic network (Ipê network).

The RNP Work Group (RNP-WG) programme was launched in 2002 with the aim of enabling the creation of collaborative projects (between RNP and local research groups) which show the feasibility of using new networking protocols, services and applications. The programme is coordinated by RNP's Research and Development Management Office.

1st stage proposals:

WG – Multiconference system of interoperable access, web and mobiles

Coordinator: Valter Roesler (UFRGS)

The objective is to develop a system of web conferences with the capacity to interoperate seamlessly with computers connected to the web and to mobile devices linked to telephone networks. The main difference in comparison with current products is the management system integrated with collaborative environments which facilitates user location, a smooth communications transfer between devices and the automatic adaptation to the terminal's capacity, which range from simple audio to high definition videos.

WG - Digital preservation - Digital preservation through distributed storage

Coordinator: Luis Carlos Erpen De Bona (UFPR)

It plans to offer a digital archiving system based on distributed storage, thus guaranteeing the preservation of and access to data for long periods of time and at a low cost. Based on the Peer-to-Peer concept (P2P), this WG justifies its project by arguing that currently a significant amount of information is being produced in digital format and that heritage must be preserved.

WG -ReBUS – Access networks in university buses

Coordinator: Luís Enrique Maciel Kosmalski Costa (UFRJ)

This WG works on the elaboration of an internet access service in university buses for staff, teachers and students. The reason lies in the success of mobile devices, which are characterised by their great capacity and low cost. In Brazil, Smartphone sales increased by 15% in 2009, and it is estimated that 900 million users will have mobile internet by 2013.

WG -SciFi – Intelligent control system for wireless networks

Coordinator: Luiz Claudio Magalhaes Schara (UFF)

The aim is to create a management service for multiple access points through an open, free and low-cost platform. Widely installed, Wi-Fi networks fight each other and with a wide range of appliances and communication patterns in a limited frequency range. The proliferation of wireless networks featuring the IEEE 802.11 pattern tends to reduce their efficacy.

WG - LinkedDataBR – Exhibition, Exchange and connection of the open data resources in the web (Linked Open Data)

Coordinator: Maria Luiza Machado Campos (UFRJ)

The aim of the group is to develop tools and associated guidelines for the exhibition, exchange and interconnection of data resources as linked open data. The idea is to provide a user-friendly environment for those interested in making their data resources available and associate them with other existing data, encouraging the publication of data in the web.

WG -AVCS – Health video-collaboration environment

Coordinator: Buenos Tatiana Tavares (UFPB)

The group proposes a hardware and software infrastructure for the secure capture and distribution of multiple simultaneous video and audio flows

in order to provide support to the various remote collaboration scenarios in the area of health. The solution proposed will be a low-cost alternative that will also enable the transmission of multiple flows coming from various sources, the remote management of transmission flows to geographically distributed points and the interaction between the connected points. The proposal is to expand the scope of Rute (network focusing on the development of telemedicine), enabling the incorporation of the institutions which do not have specific solutions for videoconferencing.

To find more information about the 2010-2011 Work Groups visit:

<http://www.rnp.br/pd/gts2010-2011>

Agenda

APRIL

4 - 5 | Open e-IRG Workshop

Budapest, Hungary
<http://www.e-irg.eu/e-irg-workshop-budapest-4-5-april.html>

11 - 22 | Advanced School on High Performance and Grid Computing of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP)

Trieste, Italy
http://cdsagenda5.ictp.trieste.it/full_display.php?ida=a10135

11- 15 | EGI User Forum 2011

Vilna, Lithuania
<http://uf2011.egi.eu/>

12 - 15 | PARENG 2011 - Second International Conference on Parallel, Distributed, Grid and Cloud Computing for Engineering

Ajaccio, Corsica, France
<http://www.civil-comp.com/conf/pareng2011.htm>

13 - 14 | DEISA PRACE Symposium 2011

Helsinki, Finland
<http://www.prace-project.eu/>

18-20 | Spring 2011 Internet2 Member Meeting

Arlington, Virginia, United States
<http://events.internet2.edu/2011/spring-mm/>

MAY

2 - 6 | Workshop on Introduction to protein molecular modelling

Mérida, Venezuela
<http://eventos.saber.ula.ve/eventos/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=161>

9 - 11 | First Conference on Digital Libraries and Repositories

Bogotá, Colombia
<http://www.biredial.org/>

10 | 7th Altair Engineering's CAE Technology Conference

Gaydon, Warwickshire, United Kingdom
<http://www.altairhyperworks.co.uk/technology/>

11 - 13 | International Symposium on Education

Cartagena, Colombia
<http://www.mineducacion.gov.co/cvn/1665/w3-article-256326.html>

13 - 15 | iED Summit 2011

Boston, United States
<http://mediagrid.org/summit/>

16 - 20 | IPDPS 2011 – 25th IEEE International Parallel & Distributed Processing Symposium

Anchorage, United States
<http://www.ipdps.org/>

16 – 19 | TNC 2011 – TERENA Networking Conference 2011

Prague, Czech Republic
<http://tnc2011.terena.org/>

17 | World Day of Telecommunications and Information Society

Celebrated worldwide
<http://www.diadeinternet.org/>

20 | PCGrid 2011 - 5th Workshop on Desktop Grids and Volunteer Computing Systems

Anchorage, United States
<http://pcgrid.imag.fr/>

20 | Conference on the Role of e-Infrastructures for Climate Change Research

Trieste, Italy
http://cdsagenda5.ictp.it/full_display.php?email=0&ida=a10141

23 - 26 | Workshop on High Performance Computing for Simulation Engineering

Boston, United States
<http://www.nafems.org/congress>

23 - 26 | CCGrid 2011- The 11th IEEE/ACM International Symposium on Cluster, Cloud and Grid Computing

Newport Beach, United States
<http://www.ics.uci.edu/~ccgrid11/>

25 – 27 | CUDI Spring Meeting 2011

Manzanillo Colima, Mexico
<http://www.cudi.edu.mx>

28 | TOPI 2011 1st Workshop on Developing Tools as Plug-ins

Honolulu, Hawaii
<http://topi2011.inf.puc-rio.br/>



Agenda

JUNE

1 - 3 | ICCS 2011- 11th International COncference on Computational Science

Tsukuba, Japan

<http://www.iccs-meeting.org/iccs2011/>

7-9 | 26th NORDUnet Conference

Reykjavik, Iceland

<https://portal.nordu.net/display/ndn2011web/index>

8 | Workshop on Dynamic Distributed Data-Intensive Applications, Programming Abstractions, and Systems (3DAPAS)

San José, California, United States

<http://sites.google.com/site/3dapas/>

8 | World IPv6 Day

Celebrated worldwide

<http://isoc.org/wp/worldipv6day/>

8-10 | 5th Iberian Grid Infrastructure Conference – IBERGRID 2011

Santander, Spain

<http://www.ibergrid.eu/2011/>

19 - 23 | ISC'11- 26 International Conference on Supercomputing

Hamburg, Germany

<http://www.supercomp.de/isc11/>

20-24 | 5th ALICE2-CLARA Meeting

Tegucigalpa, Honduras

<http://www.redclara.net>





The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of CLARA and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

The Editor wishes to make it clear that the statements made or opinions expressed in this publication are the sole responsibility of the contributors and cannot be taken to reflect the views of CLARA.